

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 CA-01 DHA-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 MCT-01 AID-05 OMB-01 /090 W
-----107281 032112Z /56

R 021435Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6244
INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 7563

E.O. GDS
TAGS: ELAB, PINS, SHUM, EC
SUBJECT: AZTRA: CONGEN OFFICERS VISIT WITH AMCITS

REF: GUAYAQUIL 1857

1. ON OCT. 29, CONGEN GUAYAQUIL'S ACTING PRINCIPAL OFFICER AND WELFARE OFFICER VISITED TWO AMERICAN CITIZENS WORKING AS ADVISORS IN THE AZTRA SUGAR MILL TO CONFIRM THEIR WELL BEING AND TO DISCUSS THE OCT. 18 INCIDENT. A PRECIS OF THEIR REPORT FOLLOWS.

2. DRIVING THROUGH LA TRONCAL (THE COMPANY TOWN) THE OFFICERS FOUND EVIDENCE OF PREVIOUS CIVIL DISORDER, INCLUDING CHARRED BARRICADES. THERE WAS LITTLE ACTIVITY AT THAT TIME AND THE AZTRA MILL APPEARED ALMOST DESERTED.

3. THE AMERICAN CITIZENS INFORMED THE OFFICERS THAT THEY HAD NOT BEEN PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR OWN SAFETY AND THAT THE RESIDENTIAL AREA WAS CONTINUALLY PATROLLED. ONE SAID THAT OUTSIDE LABOR AGITATORS HAD BEEN TRYING TO STIR UP A STRIKE FOR SOME DAYS BEFORE THE INCIDENT OCCURRED. ON THE DAY OF THE STRIKE, THE BUSES THAT NORMALLY TAKE THE
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WORKERS TO THE FIELDS INSTEAD DROVE THEM TO THE PLANT WHERE THEY INSTRUCTED BY LABOR LEADERS TO OCCUPY THE FACILITY.

4. AT 4:30 PM THE POLICE ARRIVED FROM GUAYAQUIL WITH ORDERS TO REMOVE THE STRIKERS PEACEFULLY, IF POSSIBLE, BUT TO USE ANY MEANS NECESSARY. AFTER SEVERAL ATTEMPTS TO CONVINCE THE STRIKERS TO WALK OUT (REJECTED BY THE STRIKE

LEADERS), THE POLICE FIRED TEAR GAS. THE WORKERS PANICKED AND FLED THE SITE BY THE ONLY AVAILABLE EXIT (THE OTHERS HAVING BEEN BLOCKED BY STRIKE LEADERS), ONE LEADING TO A BRIDGE ACROSS THE IRRIGATION CANAL. IN THE PANDEMONIUM, THE WORKERS JAMMED ONTO THE BRIDGE; MANY FELL AND WERE DROWNED.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: THE AMCIT REPORTS CLOSELY PARALLEL OFFICIAL ACCOUNTS. ALTHOUGH THEIR ACCOUNT MAY BE ESSENTIALLY ACCURATE IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT THEY WERE AT HOME DURING THE ACTUAL INCIDENT AND THEMSELVES CITED OFFICIAL REPORTS IN THEIR ACCOUNT TO THE OFFICERS.
BLOOMFIELD

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CITIZEN PROTECTION, VISITS, INDUSTRIAL PLANTS, LABOR STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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